



House of Representatives

File No. 579

General Assembly

February Session, 2022

(Reprint of File No. 333)

Substitute House Bill No. 5342
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
April 21, 2022

**AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME
ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 16a-41b of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2022*):

4 (a) There shall be a Low-Income Energy Advisory Board which shall
5 consist of the following members or their designees: (1) A representative
6 of each electric and gas public service company designated by each such
7 company; (2) the chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory
8 Authority; (3) the Consumer Counsel; (4) the executive director of
9 Operation Fuel; (5) the executive director of Infoline; (6) the director of
10 the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social Services; (7) the
11 executive director of Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut;
12 (8) the Connecticut [president] state director of AARP; (9) a designee of
13 the Norwich Public Utility; (10) a designee of the Independent

14 Connecticut Petroleum Association; (11) two representatives of water
15 companies as defined in section 25-32a, designated by the Connecticut
16 Water Works Association; (12) the executive director of the Connecticut
17 Fair Housing Center; (13) the executive director of the Center for
18 Children's Advocacy; (14) the executive director of the Connecticut
19 Green Building Council; and [a representative] (15) two representatives
20 of the community action agencies administering energy assistance
21 programs under contract with the Department of Social Services,
22 designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. The
23 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the
24 Commissioners of Social Services and Energy and Environmental
25 Protection, or their designees, shall serve as nonvoting members of the
26 board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2022	16a-41b(a)
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The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Expanding membership has no fiscal impact.

House Amendment "A" made a minor change that has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5342 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOW-INCOME ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD.*****SUMMARY**

This bill increases the Low-Income Energy Advisory Board's membership by six members. The bill increases, from one to two, the number of community action agency representatives on the board as designated by the Connecticut Association for Community Action. It also adds the following five members:

1. the executive directors of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center, Center for Children's Advocacy, and Connecticut Green Building Council and
2. two water company representatives designated by the Connecticut Water Works Association.

By law, and under the bill, a water company is generally any entity or entity's lessee that owns, maintains, operates, manages, controls, or employs any pond, lake, reservoir, well, stream, or distributing plant or system that supplies water to two or more consumers (generally, buildings) or 25 or more people on a regular basis (CGS § 25-32a).

The bill also makes a minor change to include on the board the AARP Connecticut state director, rather than its Connecticut president.

By law, the board advises executive branch agencies on developing, planning, implementing, and coordinating energy-assistance-related programs and policies. The board also (1) advises the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) on the impacts of utility

rates and policies and (2) makes recommendations to the legislature on the administration of the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program block grant. Under current law, the board includes at least 18 members, including representatives from (1) executive branch agencies (i.e., DEEP, the Office of Policy and Management, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, and the Department of Social Services); (2) electric and gas utilities; and (3) advocacy and nonprofit organizations (CGS § 16a-41b).

*House Amendment "A" broadens the types of water companies that may be represented on the board to include those described in the statutory definition above rather than only municipal or regional owned water utilities.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/24/2022)